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Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 34284

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to show support for the proposed Vulcan Materials quarry in Medina County near Quihi, Texas. Opposition to this quarry, mainly Dr. Robert Fitzgerald, has continually used scare tactics such as dust causing asthma and flooding caused from railroad tracks, in order to try and stop this operation. They state that the only ones to benefit from the quarry are the landowners who lease their land to Vulcan Materials. What a concept, someone making revenue from an asset. Are they opposed to the farmer making money from his farm and the rancher making money from his ranch? They ask, "What will happen when Vulcan is through with the land and there is a big hole". Wasn't Fiesta Texas in San Antonio a quarry? Wasn't the Quarry Mall and golf course in San Antonio a quarry? Wasn't the Sunken Gardens in San Antonio once a quarry? How about being used as water recharge for the aquifer or surface water site? Bottom line wouldn't it be up to the landowner?

Now they are fighting the railway itself claiming that grade level crossing would be dangerous and cause traffic jams. They act like these county roads look like Loop 410 in San Antonio during rush hour. What a joke. We've lived in Medina County all our lives, unlike Dr. Fitzgerald, and know that these county roads are not heavily traveled. Look at all the rails across Texas with trains the move a lot faster than the quarry train will move. These rails cross all kinds of roads. With proper signage and safety gates, there should not be a problem with a grade level crossing.

As far as flooding, please let common sense prevail. 99% of the time we are praying for rain. How many floods do you know were caused by a railway? In all our 44 years in Medina County, the only time flooding occurs is when we get rains like we had in 2002, which is rare. I don't see how a railway would enhance flooding.


How about the jobs, which will be created for workers at the site? How about the increased tax dollars for the county? Tax dollars, which could be used to improve roads and fund county projects. How about the taxes, which the school district would receive, which would help educate the youth of the community? How about the fuel, oil, parts and supplies, which will be bought in the county and support our small businesses?


We cannot believe that anyone would oppose a fortune 500 Company like Vulcan Materials wanting to do business in Medina County. A company who has a reputation for community involvement, and who takes the necessary precautions to make sure that no environmental issues exists. During this time of a sluggish economy, we should be grateful that a company like Vulcan would want to come and give a boost to the local economy of Medina County.

Being lifelong residents of Medina County, we are very much in favor of the Quarry and the positive economic impact it would have for our residents and ask for your support. Please keep in mind that the opposition will say or do anything to stop progress as evident by their tactics so far. Jealousy from their land not being chosen will make people do all kinds of things.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely


Craig D. Heiligman


Suzanne J. Heiligman